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Magazine for the Christian Home

Hearthstone



Special Family Worship Issue

OCTOBER, 1955—25c

The Magazine for the Christian Home

Hearthstone

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Look What's Here!

If you looked at our front cover fully, you noticed that the "teaser" der the picture read "Special Family Worship Issue." We think that issue of *Hearthstone* is pretty special and we don't want you to miss the fine family worship articles.

Those of you who have never had ship in your homes will want to "Getting Started in Family Worship" by Florence B. Lee. Excellent suggestions in accordance with the ages of children are given as to appropriate methods of beginning family worship.

If your family Bible has become a dusty relic, you'll need to read "Using Your Family Bible," by Leslie R. Smith.

A small boy visiting his grandfather on a Nebraska farm learns through miracles found in the country that God is truly the Lord of the Universe. Perhaps it is not possible for all of us to experience the wonders of country life, but we can still show our children that God is the ruler and loving Father of us all. "Blessed Be Thou, O Lord," by Mazelle Wildes Thomas, gives you a start in this direction. You'll appreciate the prayers in the article, too.

"Our Children's Personal Devotional Life," by Mary C. Odell, is our special article for this month. Religion should be more than just a "Sunday affair," this author believes. Children should learn that God is a part of their everyday lives, and parents should help them to revere God for his good gifts every day of the week.

My prolific pen has given birth to fiction for this month. The story "Gabriel and Young Mr. Pottleby," concerns a crazy mixed-up businessman who has a chance to start life anew. After reading this story, you can at least say that it is "different."

Your Davy Crockett fans will love "The Smallest Pumpkin," by Frances Darby.

We've added another name to our masthead. Joy Ghigleri, our new layout artist, has been creating the pages of *Hearthstone* since the July issue. That's because we're doing a new type of printing. We would appreciate your letting us know how you like the revamped *Hearthstone*.

What's Coming? Parents who rather defenseless against the stern demands of their teen-agers will want to read "Parents Must Stand Together" by Margaret Goff Clark—coming up next month's *Hearthstone*. Other titles to entice you to give your pince-nez a polishing are "The Art of Being Grateful," "How They Lost Him," and "Are Children Necessary?"

So long for now.

S. H.

THE WORLD

● Neither Smart nor Fashionable

Hot Springs, Ark.—Students of Hot Springs High School, adopting a code of conduct, outlawed drinking as “no longer smart nor fashionable.” They set a 9:30 P.M. curfew for week-night social functions and an 11:30 P.M. curfew for week-end affairs. This action of the high school student body was reported to the citywide Youth Council.

● Appeal for World Christian Moral Crusade

Cologne, Germany—A strong movement of Christians against immorality, paralleled by a campaign promoting the ideal of purity, was urged at a Congress of the International Union for the Protection of Public Morals. Protestant and Roman Catholic leaders were prominent among the 250 delegates from fifteen European and overseas countries attending the congress. I.M.P. was founded in 1951 with headquarters in Paris.

The outstanding note struck by the speakers was couched in variations of these words: “Our work, if it is to become effective, must not exhaust itself in fighting immorality, but must provide positive ideals.” To promote those positive ideals the following actions were urged:

Good reading matter for youth should be prepared and widely distributed.

Genuine family atmosphere should be developed as one of the best safeguards against a moral decay of the younger generation.

An international convention should be worked out to lay down judicial principles for the protection of youth.

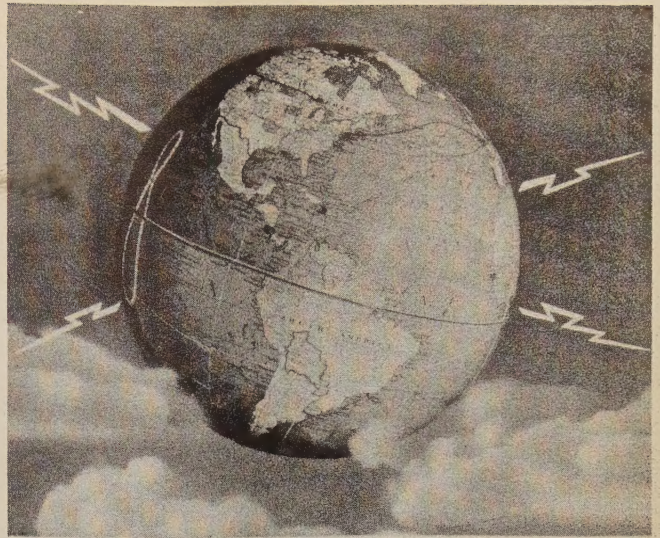
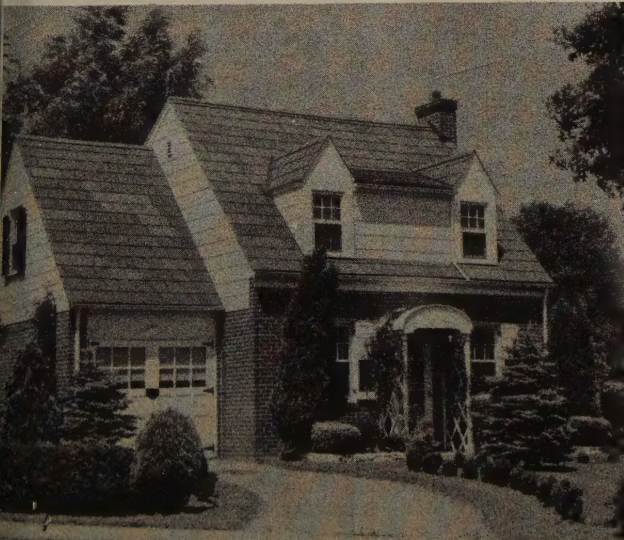
State agencies should more carefully watch over the enforcement of moral laws in the individual countries.

Families should consolidate in organizations to stir up public opinion toward combating immoral tendencies in public life.

I.M.P. member organizations should establish marriage seminars and counseling offices on a wide scale.

Increased support and guidance should be given to parents and educators to enable them to protect children against wholesome influences.

—H. Armstrong Roberts



—H. Armstrong Roberts

● Lutherans Against Church Segregation

Jackson's Mill, W. Va.—The West Virginia Synod of the United Lutheran Church in America, at its annual meeting, went on record against segregation in churches.

It asked all its churches to state plainly that their “altars, pews, and membership are open to men of all races.”

A spokesman said a report by the social missions committee “resulted in a reaffirmation of the belief that God is the Father of all men and that Christ died to redeem all mankind without any racial distinction.”

● Need More Agricultural Missionaries

New York—American churches are urged to devote more money and time to training agricultural missionaries for work in the underdeveloped areas of the world.

The plea came from Dr. A. T. Mosher, vice-principal of the Allahabad Agricultural Institute of India. He spoke at a luncheon marking the 25th anniversary of the founding of Agricultural Missions, Inc., which is supported by twenty-nine major Protestant communions, and is related to the Division of Foreign Missions of the National Council of Churches.

Dr. Mosher said the rural peoples of the world have awakened from the lethargy of centuries and are ready to accept new developments which will improve their crops and livestock and raise their living standards.

Missionaries trained by the organization have reached 100,000 rural churches with some 12,000,000 members and countless numbers of unchurched families in the areas they have served.

At present there are 158 agricultural missionaries representing forty-five Protestant communions serving in forty-five countries. More students are volunteering for this type of service, and the agency is now in touch with over 500 such persons.

AT YOUR FRONT DOOR

Getting

Started

in

Family

Worship



MARTHA and Bob Rich arrived for a visit to their friends' home about eight-thirty in the evening. Jim and Lucy Maynard greeted them, and Jim said, "We were so glad when we received your letter saying that you would spend several days with us. We wish that you could have brought Beth. We are looking forward to a wonderful 'talk-fest' for this is the first time we have been together since school days."

Just then Wilbur, the Maynards' five-year-old son, followed by his three-year-old sister, Christie, both clad in pajamas, came into the room carrying a Bible. Lucy said, after introducing the children, "It is time for family worship. Will you join us?"

Jim in the big chair with Christie on his lap, Lucy on a hassock with Wilbur on the floor at her side, and Martha and Bob on the divan were soon quiet and ready. Jim, Lucy, and the children talked over some of the happy experiences of the day. Lucy read a short, simple Bible passage, and Jim prayed briefly. When the time of worship was over, Christie placed the Bible on a low table and joined Wilbur as Lucy took them to bed.

At the breakfast table the next morning the family joined hands and asked Martha and Bob to become a part of the circle. Wilbur said the morning prayer. This was the procedure each day—a circle of family fellowship in prayer at each meal, and a time of family worship at night. Martha also noted that Lucy and Jim found many opportunities during the days and evenings to lift the children's experiences to moments of worship.

On the last day of her visit, Martha said, "Reading the Bible, recalling verses and poems, singing religious songs, talking about religious things, and praying seem so natural a part of your everyday experiences. I am wondering when you and Jim started. How did you begin, Lucy? Beth will soon be four, and we are expecting another baby in November. I would like worship to be as natural a part of our home as it is of yours."

Lucy answered, "I believe it really began when

by Florence B. Lee

our pastor read and talked with Jim and me about the meaning of the words of the wedding ceremony. It seemed that if our marriage and home were to fulfill the meaning of the words of the ceremony, family worship must be a vital part of our lives. Jim and I talked it over and prayed about it. I am sure that our first prayers were very faltering, for neither of us had grown up in homes that had times of family worship, even though our parents are Christians. Oh, on special occasions there was grace at the table, but that was all. With the help of our pastor we planned a simple home dedication service. Our closest friends were invited, and they helped us in the dedication. I shall never forget on that first morning of our honeymoon how queerly a couple

ked at us as Jim and I clasped each other's hand
d bowed our heads for silent prayer before we ate
akfast. We have had Bible reading and prayer
h day. When Wilbur was a baby, we prayed for
n as we put him to bed for the night. It has not
ays been easy, but we felt that it was so important
t we have consistently maintained the practice of
nily worship."

"It all sounds very simple, but Bob and I have lost
e years. Could we begin now? I am afraid that
would both feel self-conscious and embarrassed,"
Martha replied.

Yes, Martha and Bob can begin now. At first it
y be a simple grace at the table in which Beth can
articipate. The book which Beth brings home from
urch school contains materials which will help
Martha and Bob as they worship with her. Prayers
ould be simple and brief. Beth may suggest ideas,
d Martha or Bob may voice the prayer. Occasion-
y, Beth may say a prayer. Songs may be used.
eth may help to arrange a low table for worship
th a Bible, a religious picture, a bowl of flowers,
a growing plant in the center. Before tucking
eth into bed at night, Martha and Bob might take
ne for a "quiet period" in which they talk over
e happy experiences of the day and plans for
morrow. They should have also a prayer. In this
agazine there are materials which may be used in
orship with young children. The beginnings of
family worship may grow out of a moment of joy
hich makes it easy to lead Beth to express a simple
thank you" prayer. For their own growth and
urichment Martha and Bob may use some of the
reat passages of the Bible or a devotional booklet
uch as *The Secret Place*.

Perhaps you are thinking, "Our children are teen-
agers. We have not had family worship. How can
e begin?"

Why not talk over the importance of worship and
the desirability of the practice of family worship in
the family council? There is always time for what is
considered important. The time, frequency, or
methods of family worship are not so important as the
experience for members of the family. With the
many activities which teen-agers have, planning wor-
ship is not easy. The whole family must work at it
to keep it vital and interesting. All members of the
family should participate in planning and leading
the worship.

Worship in one family grew out of an evening's
experience when father, mother, and two teen-agers
sat around a fire and talked over the experiences
of the day. It was easy to lead into a worship
experience so vital that the son and daughter re-
quested a regular time for family worship. In an-
other family, worship grew out of a discussion
stimulated by a radio program to which the family
had listened. In another family the practice of
regular family worship began when the father, who
went to work early, left on the breakfast table a
poem clipped from a magazine, an open Bible with a
marked passage which he had read, and a few notes
concerning his prayer. It was all ready for the
next member of the family to use at breakfast.

Family worship may begin with the celebration of
an achieved honor or success of a teen-ager at school
or church. The singing of favorite hymns or songs
may lead into moments of worship. Worship services
planned by the family for special occasions, such as a
birthday, Christmas, and Thanksgiving, may be the
beginning of regular family worship. Conversation,
sharing church school lessons and experiences, hands
joined around the table as a hymn is sung, or a grace
spoken may be the beginning of regular family wor-
ship.

(Continued on page 28)

Often the table blessing is the beginning of worship in some families.

photo by erb



gabriel and young mr. pottleby

This is a story about young Mr. Pottleby. It is important the "young" be stressed, for there are two Mr. Pottlebys—a father and a son.

For years Mr. William Pottleby, Sr., had been president of the City Bank. Last year, however, he retired, and his vacant position was filled by young Mr. Pottleby. From all outward appearances young Mr. Pottleby seemed to be a very happy man. He had a loving wife, Jeanne, and three loving children: William III, called Bill, Anne Elizabeth, and Kathy. What's more, a new edition was expected in the family in about a month.

But no one knew what young Mr. Pottleby really thought. Actually, he was a very unhappy man, for he considered himself a failure as president of the City Bank, and—one day he decided to end it all. At lunch hour he would jump off the Empire State Building. He wouldn't even leave his wife a note telling her of his planned suicide. "Notes," Mr. Pottleby reasoned, "would only worry her all the more, and goodness knows, the poor woman would learn about it soon enough as it was."

Young Mr. Pottleby came downstairs for breakfast as usual, and no one suspected that anything was wrong. He drank his coffee as usual, read the morning paper as usual, and when he was ready to leave for the City Bank, gave his wife a quick kiss ("as usual," she always wailed. "Why can't you give me a real kiss like other men give their wives?")

Mr. Pottleby took one last look at his lovely little brick house—not a very fancy house for the president of the City Bank to live

in, but it was home just the same.

Mr. Pottleby shivered in the chill October breeze, but he shivered more from fright than from cold. Perhaps this suicide business was foolish, but he really *was* a disgrace to the good name of Pottleby. No, suicide was the only answer.

Promptly at 12 o'clock Mr. Pottleby left his business at the City Bank. He took a streetcar to the Empire State Building, and summoning his courage, entered the corridors of the massive structure. He followed a group of people into the elevator and rode to the top.

Not many people were on top of the Empire State Building this day, for it was too foggy and cold. Mr. Pottleby turned to look at the few people who were there, for they were the last mortals that he would ever see. The thought filled him with sadness and a sudden anxiety, which turned to terror when he looked over the railing and saw the earth far, far below.

"Enough of this torture," said young Mr. Pottleby disgustedly to himself, and squaring his shoulders, shutting his eyes, and grit-

feeling that he was not alone his atmospheric journey. He opened his eyes and saw beside him what appeared to be a man like other men, only this man had wings. "An angel," was Mr. Pottleby's first thought, but he saw the ridiculousness of it. Angels didn't exist, of course. This was probably some other mortal like himself who wanted to end it for some reason or other.

The strange man began to speak. "Ha, ha, my fine friend. Surprised to find you have company aren't you." His voice was not angelic at all. Indeed, it was more of a voice which one would expect to find in a jovial, fun-loving elderly gentleman.

"Who are you?" demanded Mr. Pottleby.

The strange man looked hurt for a minute, but boomed in his same jovial voice, "Of course, I shouldn't expect you to know me, so I apologize for Pottleby's ignorance. 'No doubt you have heard of me many times, however. I am the Angel Gabriel, and I have come to tell you that this—ah—shall we use that opprobrious word 'suicide' is a very foolish thing for you to do.'"

Mr. Pottleby was annoyed. "It's none of your business what I do," he said irritably. "Now, go away and leave me alone. Can't you let me die in peace?"

Gabriel burst out laughing. "There is one thing you don't seem to realize, my fine friend," he said, "and that is that no one dies in peace who dies as you are attempting to do. Besides, you probably know that suicide, if you will pardon the crude expression, is a cowardly way to die; so natu-

by Sue Heron

ting his teeth, he leaped over the railing, losing his hat as he did so. As Mr. Pottleby whizzed through space, he was aware of a few faint screams, and he covered his ears with his hands to blot out the noise.

Suddenly, Mr. Pottleby had a

Illustration
by
John R. Steiger



Suddenly, Mr. Pottleby had a feeling that he was not alone on his atmospheric journey.

rally, that makes you a coward."

Mr. Pottleby flushed with anger. "I'll have you know, Gabriel, or whoever you are, that it took courage to jump off the Empire State Building. Coward indeed! Not many people would have the courage to jump off such a high building."

Gabriel scratched his head. "You know, Pottleby, I rather like you, and that is why I have decided to give you another chance. My fine friend, when you reach the ground, you will not be dead. Instead, you will walk away with ease and composure, completely oblivious of the crowd which has gathered around, and you will go home to your wife and tell her very meekly that you are sorry to be late for lunch, but important business detained you at the bank."

Mr. Pottleby looked in open-mouthed astonishment at this ethereal creature. "You must be a raving lunatic," he fumed. "Why, I couldn't face the world after an episode like that."

"But think of the sensation you would create," Gabriel insisted. "I can just see the headlines on the morning paper now: MR. POTTLEBY, BANK PRESIDENT,

crowds of people. You see, Pottleby, you are a very lucky man, for I have erased from the minds of the spectators who saw you make your unfortunate leap, all memories of the incident."

If Mr. Pottleby had ever had any doubts as to the remarkable powers of this most unusual man, they were all gone now. "Even though those people don't remember," Mr. Pottleby insisted, "there will still be people on the street below who will see me when I land."

"Ah, but my fine friend, that is all taken care of, too, for I have arranged to have the streets cleared of all hoi polloi when you make your grand landing."

"You amaze me," Mr. Pottleby said candidly, "but I have no desire to live, else I wouldn't have jumped off the Empire State Building in the first place."

"That is quite obvious," Gabriel agreed, "but think of your business! Think of your wife and children. Think how worried your wife will be when you don't return. Besides, who will support her after you are gone?"

"I assure you that I have plenty of insurance which will take care of my good wife, who will be better off without me, and will also put the kids through college."

Gabriel could readily see that Pottleby was a stubborn man to deal with, and as a last resort he said slyly, "I don't suppose, Pottleby, that you took the trouble to wonder what would happen to your soul after you died, did you?"

Mr. Pottleby looked alarmed for a minute, which revealed that he had not considered the fate of his soul through eternity. "Why, I suppose I shall go to heaven," he said lamely. "I have lived a good Christian life, considering everything."

"Ho, ho!" Gabriel laughed. "That is easier said than done. Heaven is getting pretty crowded these days. We can let only the best of them in, you know. Furthermore, I don't consider you eligible for entrance into heaven. Your conduct—that sounds so much better than suicide—will act as a great hindrance to you, and I am sorely afraid that there is

only one location which will admit you at the present time, and don't believe I need to say any more."

By this time Pottleby was really alarmed. "But don't you see," he pleaded, "that I am a failure in the banking business—a disgrace to the good name of Pottleby?" "I tell you, Gabriel, I can't face the ridicule of my father and the rest of the family. It's just too much to take."

Gabriel shook his head. "That's where you are in gross error. On the contrary, you are a credit to the good name of Pottleby, and can tell you that your father thinks you are doing a splendid job as president of the City Bank. Better, he says, than he ever did."

"I know you're just saying that to make me feel better," said Mr. Pottleby sadly. "It's not true at all."

"Look at me straight in the eye and tell me if you think I am telling you an untruth," Gabriel commanded sternly.

Mr. Pottleby did as he was told and after staring into the serene depths of the ethereal man's eyes did not doubt him in the least.

"The trouble with you, Pottleby," Gabriel said, "is that you do not value yourself for what you are. You have actually forced yourself into believing that you are a disgrace to your name, when you are really a credit to it. No one, I assure you, could have done such a good job of running a large bank as you have, and I happen to know that your family and business associates are very proud of you. Now, we are about ready to land, and as I told you before, no one will be on the streets, and no one will remember your unfortunate mistake."

The young Mr. Pottleby suddenly felt a wave of hope flood through him. "You know, Gabe," he said, "you have given me new confidence in myself. I can see how wrong I was to do such a silly thing as this."

Gabriel smiled to himself. "Well, Pottleby," he said as their feet brushed the ground, "here we are on terra firma." Pottleby

(Continued on page 28)

Knowledge Is Power

*Without some restraint
Children often run wild,
So it is a wise father
Who "No's" his own child.*

Ina S. Stovall

JUMPS OFF EMPIRE STATE BUILDING UNHARMED. My fine friend, you will have made history."

Mr. Pottleby groaned. "That would be simply horrible," he said miserably. "And will you stop referring to me as your 'fine friend'? I find it most annoying. Most annoying indeed."

"Of course, my fine friend," Gabriel said amiably. "I was only joking about the headlines and the

This family is having a simple, informal worship service at which Bible reading is the main feature.



Using Your Family Bible

photo by erb

**longer can you blame the
omprehensible language in
Bible for the accumulation
dust on its pages. The new
vised Standard Version has
y language which makes
le reading a fascinating pur-
t for people of all ages.**

by
**Leslie R.
Smith**

breathing remarks have been made about the dust which accumulated on the family Bible in the corner of a generation ago. The seldom-visited "sitting-room" is a thing of the past. All the rooms of our small modern homes are very much "lived in." The big family Bible, too large to handle, in which all the vital statistics of the family were kept, likewise become a museum piece. Most families have many Bibles, perhaps in different versions, confined to no single room. These are much more usable. It is gratifying to note that they are

being used more and more as our atomic-discovering civilization becomes increasingly aware that God is our only hope. Yet are we using the Bible as we should?

Our forefathers lost Bunyan because of their fathers' familiarity with it. They picked up the quotes but lost the texts while we have not bothered even to remember the quotes. Much the same is true of our Bible. Our grandfathers knew many passages "by heart." They were avid students. Their children, our parents, remembering many of the sayings from the Holy Scriptures which their parents had

quoted to them, seldom turned to the text. The result is that we have lost even the quotations.

The trend is changing, however. We have come to the realization that we do not have a speaking acquaintance with the Scriptures. We have followed many false guides. Desiring to have family worship, we may have substituted a devotional booklet for the Book itself. While these guides are good, if rightly used and enlarged, they can become very restrictive. No devotional book, however beautifully written or wonderfully conceived, can take the place of read-

ing the actual words of God's Holy Writ. The Bible must be our guide. The new interest born with the publication of the Revised Standard Version reveals the hungering need which most people feel for a greater appreciation of God's word.

Let us note how we can use the Bible more effectively. I am a strong believer in the effect of the first influences which come into a child's life—even before he is able to talk. This is when the parents should use the Bible in the child's presence. Though he may be lying in his crib gurgling and idly playing with his toes, while he watches his father and mother read a particular book, this impression will be lasting. I would go even further and suggest to the parents of tiny babies that they read aloud from the Book, to the child, although he does not understand a word. He will, nonetheless, catch much of the atmosphere, the serene look upon the faces of his parents, the poise and the power which they feel.

As soon as conversation develops between child and parents, then surely they should read aloud to him. If this is done regularly every day, the little one will begin to look forward to that period just as he does to mealtime. Gradually, the stories will take hold in his life. He will remember them forever. These early impressions will stand by him in his hour of adult need.

When he begins to read, a child's version of the stories of the Old and New Testaments should be the medium. There are many such, one of the best being by Frazier. If the parent has been reading to the child, now that he himself is learning how to read, he will very much want to have the opportunity. Instead of letting him read the entire story, how much better it is for father, mother, and child to take their turns. Then the importance of the procedure is enhanced, and the sense of accomplishment is felt as he participates with adults. The same value that comes with being included at the family table to partake of the common food will be his rich heritage with regard to the Scriptures.

After the words have been read in this fashion, some application may be made by the parents. Gradually, the child will take his place in making these comments. A very real responsibility now lies upon the mother to remember throughout the day some of the things read in this little devotional time and to apply them to her child's activities.

It's a fact:

***To identify literally
means "to count teeth."***

As the child grows a little older, and particularly as he approaches the stage of hero worship, the devotional period can be enlarged to include supplemental material. One might begin with reading from the Bible a portion of scripture which will apply to the particular subject at hand. Then the material from the supplementary book can be read. This should be followed by discussion and a period of prayer with all participating. Such books as *Sermon Trails for Boys and Girls*, by Weist, which has little sermonettes headed by a bit of scripture, and Norman Vincent Peale's book, *Faith Made Them Champions*, to which the scripture references would have to be added, are very usable. Of course, Oursler's trilogy, *The Greatest Book Ever Written*, *The Greatest Story Ever Told*, and *The Greatest Life Ever Lived*, are dramatic presentations of the Scriptures which will also appeal to youth of this age.

As a youngster grows into his teens and the "romantic period," the Bible may very well be supplemented by some of the fine historical novels, such as *The Big Fisherman*, by Lloyd C. Douglas; *Mary*, by Sholem Asch; and *The Silver Chalice*, by Thomas B. Costain. With the help of a concordance parents can select scripture passages for almost any of the chapters of these books. To read from the Bible and then to

read the modern author's story about this is both an enticing study and an enlarging experience. Then, depending upon the nature and disposition of the youngster, the time soon comes when books on how to pray and the philosophy of prayer, can be added to the regular use of the Bible. One might start such a course by searching the Scriptures, one book at a time to discover just what is said about prayer. He might make a scrapbook of the passages that refer to it, and then study this scrapbook to get an over-all picture of the biblical teaching about prayer and one's use of it. Such books as *First Steps in Prayer*, by Kerm Olsen, *When a Man Prays*, by Rouner, and *More Than We Ask* by Bro are sufficiently popular to appeal to this age and interest.

If something like this suggested procedure is followed throughout a child's life, he will, by the time he approaches adulthood, be familiar with the prayer cell movement through the family prayer cell which meets each day in his own home. This sort of fellowship is much more intimate and inspiring than the old gloomy period of family worship. It will be a procedure which he will always want to use, for without it he will feel a great lack.

Some may ask, "What if the children are not all the same age? Of course they will not be. An older brother or sister will be glad to join in worship on the level of the youngest. Also, the youngest in the family will feel his importance as he strives to grasp an understanding of what the older ones are talking or reading about. We should encourage each of the members of family to pursue his own private worship. If the members of a family really want to adjust themselves, they can do so.

In spite of the great difference in the ages of its members the family can still have good times together. Let us cease to take lightly this matter of reading one's family Bible, and let us plan a definite program and curriculum for our youngsters. If we do, they will grow up to bless us and to bring honor to His Name.

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on or
laughter
wants

o be a

M I S S I O N A R Y



—American Baptist Foreign Mission Society.

Chinese children from Shanghai smile for the camera man.

by Colena M. Anderson

*Your young person's decision to become a missionary
is not the end of the world for him—or for you.*

*This noble calling can bring a vista of wonderful and
challenging experiences for all of you.*

It is now over thirty years since my husband and I sailed for China as missionaries of the Baptist Board. That was a long time ago—so long ago that the pre-sailing days seldom come to mind any more. Recently, however, the years slipped away like snow before a chinook, and I was back in the throes of family partings.

The occasion of my vivid remembrance came on an evening when my mother and I were dining with friends. One of the other guests was a young lawyer. How Mother came to be telling him of the beginning of the missionary phase of my life I do not know, but as the conversation in my corner of the room began to slacken, I found myself as interested in rehearing her story as the young man appeared to be in hearing it for the first time.

"After the field representative of Hiram College left the house," Mother was saying, "I told my

husband I certainly didn't want Colena to go to that college; they'd make a missionary of her. Better for her to go to Cornell.

"The godless institution of Cornell!" My husband laughed. "How can you be sure she won't become a missionary there? Maybe she'll meet a man—."

"He was right. She met Elam there. He was already a student volunteer. After they were married, she went to China with him."

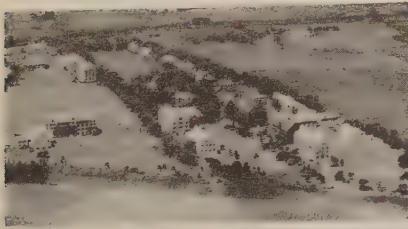
"How did you feel, having your daughter go so far away?" The young lawyer, like many another person, had become captive to my mother's animation.

"Terrible," Mother replied. "Just terrible. I thought my world had come to an end. It was like—well, something like a funeral. I cried for days."

I, too, I thought to myself, remembering my tears at separation and during the first weeks in Shanghai when I felt the whole

Aerial view of the University of Shanghai. After graduation, students engage in many different professions.

—J. W. Decker



Pacific Ocean crowding my heart and threatening to burst it.

"But you didn't continue to think that, did you?" the young lawyer probed.

"Oh, no. One day—but I've talked enough about myself and the past. You'll be telling your wife, when you get home, what a bore I was."

"No such thing!" he protested, but Mother switched the conversational topic, and it was left for me to recollect by myself the dramatic religious experience of the "one day."

When we came home, I asked Mother to tell me again about that day, for I wanted to hear it once more in her own words.

"Well," Mother said after a pause, "the feeling of desolation got worse and worse. Everything seemed to be laughing at me, mocking me—the flowers, the trees, the grass, the sunshine—everything. One day I couldn't stand it any longer. I went into the bedroom and knelt beside my bed and prayed as I had never prayed before. I asked God to take the bitterness away. I told God I couldn't stand it any longer; and the burden was more than I could bear. When I stood up, it was gone, like a heavy load lifted."

I share this intimate experience now with you parents whose sons or daughters have told you that they feel the "call" to serve on the mission field so that you may know you are not alone in your qualms and fears, your anxieties and heartaches, as you contemplate the long, wide separation. I shall not leave you there waving farewell, feeling the colored streamers of paper breaking as the ship

moves out to sea. I invite you to witness the fulness of life that came to my mother and father just because my husband and I were missionaries.

Not long after we had sailed, my father, riding home in the streetcar, noticed a young Chinese

gentleman a few seats away. Father went over, sat down, and launched his conversation on the fact that he had a daughter and a son-in-law in China. Before they parted, the young Chinese had a warm invitation to come to dinner on Sunday. That Sunday became the pattern for many Sundays thereafter. My parents opened their home and their hearts so wide that when Mr. Chen later visited us in Shanghai and told us of the trip to Niagara Falls, the trip to the Roycroft, the church services, the Sunday picnics out in the country beside Cazenovia Creek, the noodles Mother made especially for him, and the apple pies—"as though I were their son," he said. "They are the missionaries."

"Your mother," said Mr. Chen, "wanted me to be sure to tell you what she said to her neighbor. The neighbor had fallen into the habit of commiserating your mother for having you so far away. Your mother said the neighbor's sympathy had come to be quite irritating. The next time the neighbor said how sorry she was, your mother said, 'Don't be sorry for me any more. My daughter and I are closer with thousands of miles between us than are some mothers and daughters who live in the same house. Distance doesn't destroy true love.'"

Mr. Chen was not the only Chinese who enriched my parents' lives nor whose life was enriched by theirs. Nellie Wong was a young Chinese girl whose picture once appeared in the *Buffalo Evening News*. An accompanying article told of her living at the Y.W.C.A. for the summer and of

her studying at Columbia University during the winter. Remembering away Mother telephoned to inquire for Nellie for the week end. The week end stretched out into the rest of the summer, and when Nellie returned to Columbia, she said she felt as though she were truly living



ing home and that she would be back for vacation. The boxes of cookies that Mother sent her, the nuts that Father shelled for her, and the graduation dress that Mother made for her—all made Nellie feel she belonged. "I don't consider me a curiosity as many other people do," she once said to my parents. "You treat me as though I were one of you." "Why not?" they said. "You are."

After my father died, Mother spent a year with us in China. While she was there, she attended the class in Chinese language at the Shanghai American School. My husband was the principal at that time. She also directed the girls' chorus at one of the missionary schools and tutored two rich coolies in English. She came to love our Chinese friends and missionary colleagues and was greatly beloved by them. Ever since then she has counted them among her very closest friends. Out of what at first seemed to be the end of the world, there came for her the beginning of a new world with fresh and rich experiences, a wider horizon, and many beautiful and memorable vistas.

If, more than twenty years ago, all of this was possible for my father and for my mother, it is much more possible for mothers and fathers of missionaries today. In this age of airplanes parents living in a metropolitan area may

rer in time to a son or daughter
 cross the ocean than parents liv-
 in rural districts are to a son
 daughter living across the con-
 tent. When a thin sheet of pa-
 can be airborne for ten cents
 any portion of the globe, who
 any longer say, "My son—my

ughter—is at the end of the
 rld"?

So now, if or when your child
 nounces a desire or a commit-
 nt to go to the foreign field, look
 on that desire as an open door
 yourselves. If your pocket-
 book permits, begin planning a
 p to see him. Reach for the
 one and make an advance reser-
 tion. If your pocketbook is too
 m, bring foreign missions into
 ur own home by getting ac-
 ainted with some citizen of the
 untry that is to be your son or
 ughter's adopted homeland.
 ad about the country and the
 ople. Look up some native rec-
 es. Invite your friends in to
 ste one of the foreign dishes you
 ve made. Familiarize your-
 ves with the folklore, the games,
 e songs, the history, and the lit-
 ature of the country. Stretch
 ur vision, your minds, and your
 arts, and see for yourselves if a
 essing in good measure, pressed
 wn, shaken together, running
 er, does not come to you. Never
 ink of your child's decision as
 ing the end of the world for
 u. Above all, never think of it
 the end of the world for him.
 e truth is that every appointed
 ssionary goes not to an end but
 a threshold—the threshold of a
 w world full of challenge and
 limited opportunity. There he
 ll receive, if his spirit is sensi-
 e, the greatest and most lasting
 isfactions that can come to any
 son.

Is your son to be a missionary
 etor? He may not have a
 eamlined office in some medical
 s building where his name will
 one in a long roster of names;
 fact, there may be no great



—United Service to China Inc.

Students of the Summer Recreational Institute at Shanghai University enjoy a little fun on the campus. The boys do the "Lion Dance," while the girls clap out the rhythm with their hands. Their attendance at the institute is made possible with the assistance of United Service to China.

building nor any kind of roster. For every hundred patients on the books of a doctor at home, he will have a thousand, and for every ten operations he will have a hundred. He also can protect the health of all the people in a whole town or over a whole countryside. Moreover, he will be the healer not only of broken bodies, but of broken spirits and hearts as well. He will have opportunities unlimited!

Is your daughter to be a missionary nurse? She may not have a shining hospital in which to move swiftly in her fresh and crisp new uniform; in fact there will be days when her uniform may not be crisp. She will, however, have fresh gratitude from women and children who, unable to read the Word as it stands in the Book, can always read it in her.

Is your son to be an evangelist, a minister of the gospel in a foreign field? He may not have a modern church building and a director of religious education. In fact, he may have no church that he can call his own. He will have a parish so wide that he cannot

traverse it in a day; a congregation so challenging he must always freshly live his own faith.

Is your daughter to be a missionary teacher? She may not have a well-equipped classroom; in fact, she may not have a classroom at all, or no texts except those that students themselves copy. She will have boys and girls hungry for knowledge and thirsty for her friendship.

Oh, it is true your doctor son may cry out for instruments and medicine; your nurse daughter may beg for bandages; your preacher son may plead for Bibles and a helper; your teacher daughter may write, "We have one pencil for every twenty students, and one book for every forty." Then there will be times when your doctor son will sing, "I wouldn't trade this practice for anything at home"; when your nurse daughter will say, "There's more living and serving packed into one day here than I thought could come in a month"; when your preacher son will cable, "They that sat in darkness have seen the light"; and when your teacher daughter

(Continued on page 28)



—FSA

blessed be thou O Lord

by Mazelle Wildes Thomas

BLESSED be thou, O Lord God of the Universe, who bringest bread out of the earth."

Time and again Charles heard his grandfather speak these words—but this noon the meaning of the humble Hebrew words of praise and thanksgiving leaped through his mind with a new clarity.

"Blessed be thou, O Lord God of the Universe."

"Lord God of the Universe"

"Lord God of the Universe"—the phrase danced and sang in the heart of Charles.

"He is, isn't he, Grandpa? That's just what he is. I know it now! It's what my church school teacher has been telling us, but just this morning I began to understand, 'n' when you said the blessing just now, it all seemed very clear to me. . . ." Charles's words tumbled forth in a torrent of new understanding and appreciation.

He had come with his grandfather to spend a part of the spring vacation at the home of his uncle who lived on a large farm in the wheat belt of Nebraska. Since early in the morning he had been in the field with his uncle—riding the tractor that drew behind it the great plow. To see the rich black earth laid

open in deep and regular furrows by the great steel blade of the plow was a new and wonderful experience for young Charles.

He and his Uncle Ben had talked as they plowed furrow after furrow. They talked of the land, the plowing, the seeding, and the harvest. They talked of the seasons, of the sun, the wind, and the rain. Through it all Charles had caught a new glimpse of the Great Plan. At noon when he saw the weathered, seamed face of his grandfather lifted above his folded hands and heard the familiar words of thanks, he found expression for what he had been feeling all morning.

"Yes, Charlie, you're right. He is the Lord of the Universe, and he does bring the bread out of the earth," answered the grandfather. "Now you'd better eat that chicken pie Aunt Lucy has put on your plate so you'll be ready to go back to the plowing. But Charles continued talking.

"Now I see why Mom and Dad always ask you to say the blessing when you're at our house, Grandpa. Folks like you and Uncle Ben know what it means.

"Mebbe you're right, son, mebbe you're right."

now you know what it means, too. When you come next week, I won't be going with you. How would you like to take your old Gramps' place in saying the blessing at your table?"

I would, Gramps—yes, sir! I would, and Mom Dad will like it, too—I know they will!"

Yes, they'll like it, too, Charlie, and what is more, they'll know just what it means. It only seems like yesterday that your Dad and Uncle Ben were riding and plow with me . . . and feeling the same fine things you felt this morning."

It was that the simple, noble act of worship known as "returning thanks," "asking the blessing," or "saying grace" became established in the home of Charles.

Many of us are like this family. We have come from homes where the custom of prayer before meals has been practiced for years, but somehow in the setting up of our new homes we have neglected to institute it and have found it increasingly difficult to do as the years go on.

Perhaps we need a new impetus. We cannot all have experiences like the one Charles had, but his story can help us decide to start this day thanking God for food prepared and set before us.

God is great, God is good,
Let us thank him for this food;
By his hand are all things fed,
Give us, Lord, our daily bread.

This simply expressed table grace can be used by the family just beginning the custom in their home. It may be learned by the whole family and repeated in unison, or it can be used by individual members of the family who can take turns in "asking the blessing."

It is not the words we use to express our gratitude to God, but the manner and attitude in which the words are spoken.

Beautifully expressive words may be as "a noisy cymbal or a clanging cymbal," and yet they may fall on deaf ears, while the simplest of heartfelt thanks may be extremely meaningful.

Table prayers and blessings should vary with the needs and ages of the family.

A family living in a rural area or one visiting where they can experience the process of "bringing the bread out of the earth." Such families will find the following bit of well-known verse a fitting family table blessing:

Back of the loaf is the snowy flour,
And back of the flour the mill,
And back of the mill is the wheat and the shower,
And the sun and the Father's will.

A suitable thank-you prayer for the very young child is this one:

God is loving,
God is good,
God, we thank you
For this food. Amen.

The primary age child might use the following blessing before the evening meal, or he might lead his family in the unison saying of it:

For these glad hours
Of work and play,
For food and rest
At close of day,
We thank thee,
Heavenly Father.

The child from seven to eleven needs and enjoys a variety of ways to express his prayer thoughts. If he and his family have experienced worship through table prayers, he will find this twelve-line blessing expressive:

Thank God, who gives the harvest,
Sends wind and sun and rain,
To ripen sweet red apples,
And fields of golden grain.

Thank God for friends and playtime,
For homes and loving care,
For schools and work and churches,
For chance to help and share.

Thank God for all the bounties
His love and kindness send.
Thank God who gave us Jesus,
Our Teacher, Helper, Friend.

—ETHEL L. SMITHER

The upper junior and intermediate child will find this grace helpful, as will his entire family:

We thank thee then, O Father,
For all things bright and good;
The seedtime and the harvest,
Our life, our health, our food.

No gifts we have to offer
For all they love imparts,
But that which thou desirest,
Our humble, thankful hearts.

WHILE every member of the family can participate, as well as take turns in bringing a meaningful experience of worship to their group, there are times when the parents will feel the need to direct this act of worship.

In a prayer of their own making or through the words of others, they can direct the thoughts of all those about the table. They can add to the richness of the experience with their greater facility for expression.

The following three prayers might be brought to the table on occasion and read by an adult member of the family:

Our Father, we thank thee for rest and refreshment at evening time. Refresh us above all with thy presence, and renew our spirits. Break for us the inward bread of life that we may partake of thy strength, thy goodness, and thy peace. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

We thank thee, Father, for the joy of daily work,

for strength to do it, for rest that evening brings.
We thank thee for all who have worked that we
might enjoy this meal. We thank thee for giving
us each a share in the work of thy world that we may
be thy fellow workers. Amen.

For all we mean to one another,
For all the happy times we share,
Father, mother, sister, brother,
Kept within thy loving care;

Father God, we truly thank you
And we thank you for this food,
May it give us strength to serve you
And help others as we should. Amen.

Singing graces provide a good change and make
possible the entire family's participation. John
Wesley's well-known "Be Present at Our Table,
Lord" is perhaps the best known and can be sung
to the tune of "Old Hundredth."

This

I Hold True

This I hold true past all surmise,
And shall though fear and I walk troubled
sands:
That God is there—behind the changing
scenes—
And sees, and knows, and understands.

This I shall hold though tempests rage
In hate across a crazy world at war:
That Love is stronger than the wildest hate—
And Love is mine forevermore.

This my heart knows when day is done:
That after rest returns the friendly sun.
And after death, the throbbing life I know
Shall live—beyond oblivion!

—T. Moore Atkinson

Be present at our table, Lord;
Be here and everywhere adored.
These mercies bless and grant that we
May feast in fellowship with thee.

FAMILIES who are accustomed to asking the Lord
blessing upon their every meal, like to use the
"Quaker Grace," when eating in a public place. The
family join hands around the table, and then bow
heads in a moment of silent prayer in grateful ap-
preciation of God's good gifts.

Because mealtime is the only time in many of our
homes when the entire family is together, it becomes
a real opportunity for group worship. If a little
thought is given to the planning of this devotion-
al act, it can become a significant event in the daily
life of our homes.

The silversmiths of long ago urged the housewife
who set her table with their silver to use it every day,
for its beauty was enhanced by regular use. What
is true of good silver is true of family worship about
the table. It is an experience that becomes more beau-
tiful and meaningful with use.

In Paul's first letter to young Timothy, he wrote
"For every creature of God is good, and nothing is
to be rejected, if it be received with thanksgiving,
for it is sanctified through the word of God and
prayer."

The young "Timothys" of our homes need to learn
early of God's gifts and to be trained in the art of
expressing their appreciation by "returning thanks"
at mealtime.

From the time he is able to sit in his high chair at
the family table, he can learn to bow his head in an
attitude of reverence during the time the quiet words
of thanks are spoken. When he is old enough to ex-
press himself thoughtfully, he can be taught simple
"thank you" table prayers. Though he lisps his
words and expresses himself haltingly, every member
of the family will respect his act of worship with the
same reverent respect shown the older members of
the family. As he grows older, he will put away the
childlike "graces" and take his turn in "asking the
blessing" in his own way.

As the family grows in their appreciation of fam-
ily worship at the table, they may want to follow the
custom shared here by a family of five.

Each Monday evening every member of the family
comes to the dinner table with something special to
share with the entire group. Sometimes it is a choice
verse of scripture; sometimes a bit of poetry com-
posed by the one who shares it; it may be a short
story; a true experience out of the week's activities;
a song; and even a drawing or a clay-sculptured
horse; once it was the first jonquil from the garden;
another time, a basket of freshly made rolls. The
main course for these evening meals is always a
casserole dish so that the dinner may stay hot for
serving immediately following the sharing of the
"treasures." The family speaks in glowing terms of
the good conversation which accompanies the meal on
these Monday evenings. The children look forward
to their part in the sharing experience.

FRIEND or relative of yours is in the hospital. You are planning to visit the patient. You want to take a gift with you. What could you select?

Someone may have told you that flowers, candy, or fruit are acceptable gifts for the sick. A few words of caution concerning these items might be advisable. Large bouquets from the florist are pretty and impressive, but the nurses have little time to give them the proper care, and the patient is not able to do so. The result is that often an expensive bouquet lasts only a day or two in the hospital room. A few small flowers in an attractive vase that takes up a minimum of space on the bed table would bring more lasting enjoyment to the patient. A small plant that he can watch grow under his own care will give added interest to his hospital stay.

As for candy you should consider the patient's condition. Much of the candy received at the hospital goes to the nurses, and many of them dread the sight of a candy box. Mints, hard candies, life savers, or candied fruits are better than chocolates or rich confections.

Fruit is usually welcome in small quantities. A large basket of fruit may look appetizing and may delight the fruit dealer, but the average patient can eat only a little of the fruit at one time. Most fruit spoils quickly when not under refrigeration, and hospital refrigerators do not have space for more than the hospital's own needs.

On the other hand, you may

member of your family or a friend who has been in a hospital. Their suggestions may give you an idea. One thing to remember is that the gift should be small. Space for a patient's personal use is limited.

Here are several possibilities for either men or women:

Reading Materials:

Small books, magazines, or papers

(You may have some church school papers or devotional booklets, such as *The Secret Place*).

Writing Needs:

Mechanical pencils

Ballpoint pen

Note paper

Writing pad and envelopes

Thank you cards

Stamped envelopes, postal cards, or stamps.

Something to Eat:

Cookies or crackers in a metal or glass container, with a tight cover to keep them fresh.

Salted nuts

Fruit juice in small bottles

Small jars of jelly, jam or preserves.

Something to Do:

Small puzzles, such as crossword puzzle books, jigsaw puzzles, and others.

Simple handwork with clear instructions if the patient is unfamiliar with it.

For Comfort:

Foam rubber pillow in pillow case (small size) to relieve many an ache or pain from being in bed.

Think to yourself, "I want to take my friend something out of the ordinary." Then put on your thinking cap. Try to imagine yourself in the patient's place. Recall some of his likes and dislikes. If you never have been hospitalized yourself, consult some

If your friend is a man, he will welcome personal items, such as shaving cream, after-shaving lotion, soap in a container, or talcum powder. Avoid dashing into a drug store or five and ten cent store to purchase the first thing

(Continued on page 28)

By

Alice Marie

Squires

Often we are dubious as to a suitable gift for a hospital patient. This author gives us helpful hints in selecting appropriate gifts.

What Should I Take

... to
a hospital
patient?

Might this be your daughter surveying you
with a critical yet amused look in her eye?



—Lwoma

A

We t
so hard
train our ch
dren so we can
proud of them. Ha
you ever wonder
whether your child
have reason to
proud of you

by Nell Dunkin

WE ARE so busy training our children so that we can be proud of them, that we very seldom stop to think if they can be proud of us. Of course, we do not always admit that pride in them is one of our objectives, but somewhere underneath all other reasons we will find this one if we examine ourselves closely.

It is necessary to our children's well-being that they be proud of us. It is a part of that security which we know is very important. There are so many different phases of our lives that we need to develop to something of which they—and we—can be proud. Sometimes busy mothers and fathers discount the importance of appearance. We are giving our love

and a mother who has an ear for the latest "dope" on the school team, Johnny is going to be proud of his home and his mother.

Little boys who can't boast of what "my Dad" does or says are at a great disadvantage in their own estimation and in the eyes of their friends. Dad does not have to make the headlines of the newspaper. He must, however, be interested in what his young son does, and he must be ready and willing to teach the lad skills which he admires.

The skills may run from fishing to chess, from woodworking to golf. They may include sharing the father's own hobby, or they may mean helping Sonny to develop one of his own.

Are they proud of us?

and attention to our children and showing it in one way by providing the very best possible clothes, home, and other things which are considered necessities in this modern life.

Sometimes the family budget doesn't seem to cover new clothes for parents. Mother would much rather see Janey have the new dress she wants than to get one herself. Clothes mean so much to a young girl, and besides she does look cute in them.

Father is thinking so much about providing for his family that he never thinks of a new suit, until Mother tells him he *must* get one. She has mended his old trousers as much as she decently can.

Of course Janey likes that new dress, and Johnny likes that new sport coat. Sometimes, however, we need to reverse the usual procedure and let Mother get a stylish dress. Let Father get the sport coat—ah, a very quiet one, perhaps—but one which will make him take an interest in his appearance again.

Then see how proud Janey and Johnny are going to be when Mother and Father wear their new clothes.

If you try this experiment some time, you may overhear one of the children say to a young friend, "You should see the new dress Mother has. It is really something!" or "Dad has the best looking sport coat." It won't be hard to detect the note of pride in their voices. Children like to be proud of their parents' appearance.

Our children like to be proud of the way we greet and treat their friends when they bring them home. They like to know that they can depend upon us to be always as courteous to their young friends as we are to our own. They like to have us greet them with the same cordial friendliness that we give to an adult.

When Johnny brings his pals home after school, can he be sure they will receive a welcome, or will they be sent out to play in a hurry with barely a greeting and no after-school snack? Now, of course, if they find a hearty and filling sandwich waiting

Can our children be proud of our place in the community? If we always let "George" do things rather than help with worthy projects ourselves, it gives children the wrong impression of community activities. They will think of such things as the work of a certain few, which is not vitally important to the rank and file of the citizenry.

If we work wholeheartedly for community betterment, then our children will get a clearer concept of what the community means. In addition they will be proud of us for our leadership in improvements, for the pace we hold as "solid citizens."

When the superintendent asks you to take a church school class, what is your reaction? Is your first thought to refuse because your family needs all your time?

Perhaps your children need you to teach that class much more than they need the few hours of time that might take you from them. They like to see Father and Mother among the important people of the church and school. The church becomes more important to them. Your teaching and studying gives them an insight into the importance of the work.

Since you belong to them, they gain a personal interest in the church. Someday you children will want to participate themselves. Since they begin to identify themselves with such work as they are growing up, it is natural for them to take part when they are old enough.

Our own faith should be so unwavering that our children will never question Christian principles. In their growing years they may be merely absorbing this attitude, but when they have matured, they are going to be proud of us for it.

If our children are proud of us, they will consciously or unconsciously want to make us proud of them. In this way they will develop strong Christian characters.

The Smallest Pumpkin

FARMER BROWN was loading his pumpkins. He picked up the last one and turned it around in his hands.

"Mm-mm-mm. You're small. But you're sound. Big enough for a small pie, or maybe a round little jack-o'-lantern. I'll take you along."

"Up you go," said Farmer Brown, as he put the smallest pumpkin on the pile in the wagon.

Mrs. Brown stood at the farmhouse door as Farmer Brown drove out of the farmyard.

"Don't forget anything," she called. "Do you have my list?"

"Right here," called Farmer Brown, slapping his pocket.

Old Tom jogged along the country road.

"Whoa," said Farmer Brown when Farmer Jones waved from his tractor.

"I didn't know you still drove Old Tom," called Farmer Jones.

"My truck broke down," said Farmer Brown. "So I hitched up Old Tom. I want to get this load to town today."

"That's a fine lot of pumpkins," said Farmer Jones. "It will make plenty of pies."

Farmer Brown smiled.

"Maybe some jack-o'-lanterns, too," he said.

"That's right," said Farmer Jones. "For Halloween. My boys grew their own pumpkins this year. Sure am proud of them."

"Good," said Farmer Brown. "Well, I must go on. Old Tom is slow, and I have errands to do for Mrs. Brown after I sell my pumpkins in town."

The tractor chugged on in the field, and the old farm wagon creaked on to town.

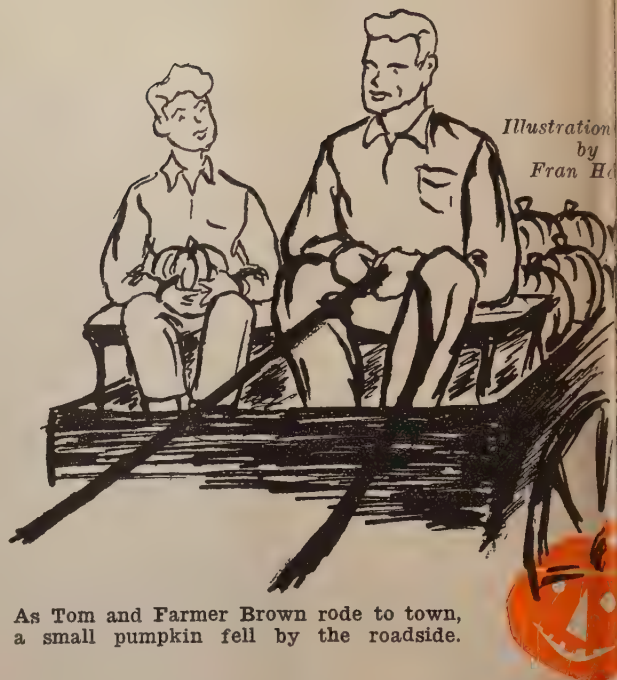
"Going uphill, Jim?" Farmer Brown called to a boy on the road.

"Yes, sir," said the boy.

"Hop up," said Farmer Brown, "if you'd like a ride."

"Thanks," said Jim, "if you don't think it's too much for Old Tom to pull uphill."

Farmer Brown laughed. "You don't weigh much,



As Tom and Farmer Brown rode to town, a small pumpkin fell by the roadside.

Jim, and you always liked to ride with Old Tom. Hop on."

"I still do," said Jim, climbing on. "I haven't seen him on the road lately."

"I don't take him out much now," said Farmer Brown, and then he leaned over and whispered to Jim.

"He's getting too old—and so's the old farm wagon. I hope we all hold together till we get to town."

"Maybe we won't," he added, as one rickety wheel bumped over a stone.

The wagon shook, the pumpkins bounced, and the smallest one rolled halfway down the pile.

"Nearly lost that one," said Farmer Brown.

"There are a lot of pumpkins," said Jim. "What if they all were jack-o'-lanterns!"

Farmer Brown laughed. "Enough to scare the whole town. But some of them will be, I expect. Do you have one, Jim?"

"Not yet," said Jim. "But I'm earning one this afternoon."

"I'd be glad to give you one," said Farmer Brown.

"Thank you," said Jim. "But Miss Lane has one she's saving for me. I'm going to rake leaves for her."

"Good," said Farmer Brown. "I wouldn't want you to go without a jack-o'-lantern."

He pulled up at Miss Lane's little cottage.

"Thanks for the ride," Jim said.

"Glad to have you along," said Farmer Brown.

Jim patted Old Tom before he ran around to the back yard.

(Continued on page 30)

Worship in the family with children

THEME FOR OCTOBER:

Thanks for
the Bible

TO USE WITH YOUNGER CHILDREN

Good Friends

A Word to Parents

The materials on this page and on the next two pages are for your use in moments of worship with your children. If you have a family worship service daily in your home, some of the materials here may be used at that time. If you use *The Secret Place*, you may find that some of the thoughts given here will lead into the meditations in that booklet.

A Bible Verse

Be kind one to another.—Ephesians 4:32.

"Mary," Mother called one morning, "you have company!"

Mary came running.

"I've come to play with you," Susan said. "I've brought my best doll, Elizabeth."

"Mary, you and Susan and Elizabeth could play in your room," Mother said.

Mary and Susan played with their dolls. They looked at books. They built with blocks.

After a while Mother came to the door. "I've just taken some cookies out of the oven. By the time you get the table set, the cookies will be ready to eat."

"Oh, goody!" Mary said. "We will have a party!"

Mary and Susan put away the

books. They put away the blocks. Then they put four small chairs around the table—one for Susan, one for Elizabeth, one for Mary, and one for Mary's doll. They put the dishes on the table: plates and cups for Susan, for Elizabeth, for Mary, and for Mary's doll.

When Mother brought the cookies and cold milk, Mary and Susan bowed their heads.

Mother prayed, "Thank you, God, for friends. Help us always to be kind to one another. Amen."

Susan said, "That sounds like a verse we said at church. 'Be kind to one another.'"

Mother smiled. "That verse is in the Bible. It tells how to be good friends."



A Litany

For the Bible that tells us about
God's love and care,
We are glad.

For its stories of people who lived
long ago, and who knew God,
We are glad.

For its good rules for working and
living with others,
We are glad.

For the ways it shows us in which
we may work with God,
We are glad.

For its songs of praise and wor-
ship,
Thank you, God, our Father.

For the many ways in which the
Bible helps us,
Thank you, God, our Father.

A Bible Verse

We give thanks to thee, O God; we
give thanks.

—Psalm 75:1.

At Bedtime

At bedtime when
The lights are out,
I have time then
To think about
The talks we have
At close of day,
That help me live
A better way.

I'm glad for happy,
Busy days;
For time to talk
Of puzzling ways;
For songs we sing;
And stories, too,
That tell me what
I ought to do;
For prayers of thanks
For God's good care;
The Bible with
Its stories rare;
For home, and parents'
Goodnight kiss.
Thank you, God,
For all of this!

—J. B. C.

FOR FAMILY WORSHIP

Call to Worship:

Oh, how I love thy law!
It is my meditation all the day.
—Psalm 119:97.

Litany: The one found on this page, or one your family may have composed

Scripture: Psalm 119:1-3, 10-11, 33-35, 105

Meditation: About the scripture read
or

Story: Choose one of the following:

"Good Friends," on page 20.

"Our Father's World," primary pupil's book, Year Two, Fall Quarter, page 21

"The Story the Bible Tells Us," primary pupil's book, Year Three Spring Quarter, page 34

Song: "The Bible Is a Treasure Book," found on this page

Poem: Use one of the following:

"At Bedtime," on this page

"For Stories Fine and True," primary pupil's book, Year Two Winter Quarter, page 31

"Our Thanks for the Bible" (words of hymn), primary pupil's book, Year Two, Winter Quarter, page 22

Prayer: Use the one on page 21, or one that expresses the thing talked about in the meditation or the story you used.

The Bible Is a Treasure Book

Elizabeth McB. Shields, 1944

SPOHR

Louis Spohr, 1835

1. The Bi - ble is a treas - ure book Of sto - ries that are true;
2. The Bi - ble is a treas - ure book Of vers - es old and new;
3. The Bi - ble is a treas - ure book: It tells how, long a - go,
It tells of peo - ple long a - go — Of folks like me and you.
Some make us think of love - ly things; Some show us what to do.
Christ Je - sus came to live on earth, Our Fa - ther's love to show.

Words copyright, 1944, by Elizabeth McB. Shields. Used by permission.



TO USE WITH OLDER CHILDREN

God . . . richly furnishes us with everything to enjoy.—1 Timothy 6:17c.

Thinking about the Bible

As you look at the picture on this page, does it make you think about some of the verses in the Bible? It brings to my mind verses about four different things that are important to me and that affect my happiness.

- 1) This picture makes me think of passages that tell of God's love and care in planning a world for my comfort and well-being.
- 2) It recalls to my mind God's plan for my life in many different ways.
- 3) It reminds me of a verse that tells me of the joys of friendship.
- 4) It speaks to me of what I must do to make and keep friends.

If you do not think of these things as you look at this picture, look up the following verses:

- 1) Genesis 8:22; Matthew 6:11.

(2) Luke 2:52.

(3) Proverbs 17:17a.

(4) Proverbs 20:11; Ephesians 4:32; John 13:34; 1 John 4:7, 11; Luke 6:31.

Prayer

Dear God, our Father, thank you for your love and care. I am glad for this wonderful world and for the many pleasures which I may enjoy with my friends and my family. I am glad for the Bible which tells me about you and how I may live and work with others in ways that please you. Help me always to remember these things. Amen.

O sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things!

—Psalm 98:1.

ur children's personal devotional life



—H. Armstrong Roberts

"As Christian parents we cannot neglect to provide Christian training for our family."

TWO mothers in the doctor's waiting room were discussing their children's reactions to the various shots and preventives. Both agreed it was an unpleasant experience for all concerned, but that neither would be willing to forego the discomfort and lose the assurance of physical safety. Next they discussed the school educational insurance for college, and the social standing of their children in the community. It was evident that they wanted the best. At once, though, did they touch upon the deepest fundamental of family concern—their responsibility to parents toward the religious nurture of their children.

As Christian parents we cannot neglect to provide Christian training for our family. This is our duty, our privilege, and our joy, and we can expect them to respond only through demonstrating our own reverence, love, and trust in God. We cannot teach our children something we do not know or have not experienced ourselves. Unless a couple have begun their marriage by a frank display of and respect for each other's personal devotions and a sharing together in their worship, it is best that they learn to do so before trying to include or lead their children. Even then comes the problem of when and how to begin.

Remember that this is not something new. Long before there were churches or ministers, family worship was practiced. The father was the first priest, the hearth was the first altar, and the mother and children were the first worshipers. Family groups talked about what they thought of God and learned to pray to him, and through their shared experiences the family was the richer for it. So it is today.

You can begin by sharing or taking turns with saying grace before meals. You can set aside some time for personal or shared devotions. This can be the reading of a simple devotional booklet or a short Bible passage and prayer after the evening meal or just before retiring. You can learn to have your Bible as easily accessible, and as often used as any of your magazines. You can make church worship a habit.

Once we have established the habit of our own devotions, it is not only easy to include our children; it is hard not to. We feel impelled to share with them something we know to be too good for them to miss. Grace before meals is the simplest form of worship in which the family may share. Even the child in his high chair may learn to imitate his parents long before he understands why they bow their heads to say thank you to God. Soon he will be learning to say his own simple thanks and to know when it is his turn and why he is having a share in his family experience. Write out some brief thank you prayers which are in the language of today. Type these and give them to members of the family to use until they become accustomed to participating in them. Suggest that each one compose his own grace, changing it often. Vary by using some prepared pieces such as those often found in church school materials. Encourage spontaneous, unprepared participation. Be sure that each child has a turn. Grace

prayers may be prepared for special days and holidays. These may be learned or typed and given out to be read in unison.

Sometimes family schedules defy all efforts to build family devotions. If this is true, something needs to be done about the schedule. It is time we made some sacrifice for this important part of family experience. If it is not practical to have family prayers after breakfast, why not have them after supper before the family scatters? Or if this cannot be managed, what about Sunday evening? Remember to keep worship brief, informal, and as nearly on the level of your child's thinking and understanding as possible. It is not always necessary, however, that each child understand all that is read from a Bible passage, or to know why the prayer is being said. It is enough for a while just for him to know that as a family you think it is important to pray and to read the Bible and that he is expected to listen. The awareness of his parents' dependence upon God is important, for worship is *caught* rather than *taught*. Look for aids to use in family devotions. Your minister may have suggestions, your church school materials may provide helps. Find out what others are doing. Browse through the book departments of the stores. Keep experimenting until you find satisfaction.

Family ties are strengthened by shared experiences. Happiness and sorrow should be shared with each other and with God. There are many opportunities for a spontaneous out-giving of thanks for the wonders which surround us, such as a sudden summer shower; a rainbow in the sky; snowflakes on a mitten; grandmother's visit; the first flowers in the garden; the sun shining through a window. Special days provide a good time for expressing the religious rather than the secular significance. At Christmas time help your children to understand and use the star, the crèche, and the candle and bell in your decorations. Let them see that Santa and his reindeer are symbols of bringing special love to others at Christmas time. Never let them go through the holiday without realizing that it is the Christ child's birthday. A family worship service at the conclusion of the tree trimming, or after the stockings are hung on Christmas Eve sets the theme for the day to come.

Study Article and Guide

for Parents' Groups

by

Mary C. Odell

Any family which has a piano can have a rich experience of hymn singing, using a variety of hymns based upon the needs and ages of the family.

Out of family worship will come a child's own personal devotions. At first this is something he learns to do with a parent. He learns to say his prayers or listen to a story. He may have beside his bed his own worship center on which he puts a picture, a flower from the garden, or his own Bible. Sometimes a parent can stimulate the thinking of a small child by asking a simple question such as "What was the happiest thing you did today?" or "How did you feel when you saw the sun come out after the rain?" or "How do you think Bobby felt when you pushed him today?" "Let's tell God about it. Will you, or would you like me to do it for you?"

As a child learns to read, he can be helped to his own time and materials for personal devotion. The daily habit will be more easily kept if he knows that you do it, too, and are willing to share with him when he wishes. A child's devotions need not always be something he does alone at a certain time. He can be helped to understand that an awareness of God can come at any time or place and that even his thoughts can sometimes be worship.

Most children need guidance with their prayers. Any child can learn a rote prayer and say it without thinking about its meaning. Expressing his own thoughts, however unskilled he may be, is much the better way. At first he will be concerned only with his own needs. Gradually, he can be helped to include others in his prayers and to seek for help and guidance rather than for things. He can learn this

(Continued on next page)

Study Guide

for "OUR CHILDREN'S PERSONAL DEVOTIONAL LIFE"

1. To the Leader. Begin by stating the purpose of your meeting. The purpose of this discussion is to help each other in this particular task of developing the child's religious life. Although we do not necessarily want to come to any conclusions, we are interested in stimulating our thinking and helping each other with practical suggestions which have proved helpful.
2. Stimulate the discussion by using some of the following methods:

1. Put on a blackboard the question, "How can we enrich our children's understanding of God?" The members of the group might answer this question by referring to the suggestions in the article. Others may give experiences of their own families.

2. Distribute 4 x 5 cards and have each person write out an original

family grace. They should indicate the ages of the children. Have them exchange cards and read the graces out loud. If the group desires, these cards could be collected, and someone might make copies to be sent to each one as a stimulus for use in the home.

3. Discuss the problem of taking our children to church. At what age should we begin? When should they be expected to sit during the entire service without disturbing those around them? Should the church give recognition of children by having a children's hymn or sermon? How about children leaving before the sermon for an extended session of church school? Should parents assume any responsibility toward conducting this session? Should such a session be regarded as a baby-sitting service or as an opportunity for Christian teaching?

4. Ask the group to share their ideas about how we may add a religious significance to secular and religious holidays? How may we enrich the celebration of Easter in our homes? Thanksgiving? Christmas Birthdays?

5. Suggest a few assignments to key persons to augment discussion. Suitable chapters can be selected from books suggested here. It should be made clear that these are to be read as background and not to be given as reports.

6. Ask one or two people to read this article and be prepared to comment. Remember to ask for the assignment if it is given.

7. Ask someone to help you select and arrange an attractive display table of suitable books and materials to help parents with the devotion lives of their children. Perhaps your church has or will order a few of these on the suggested list. Public libraries are usually willing to lend books for display. Your minister or director of Christian education might help to choose these books. Sometimes a local book seller will lend a display if credit is given and books are returned undamaged.

8. Several children may be selected to arrange worship centers which might be used in their own rooms. These should be done ahead of time and with the idea of sharing with others.

9. One or two families could be asked to arrange family worship centers of ideas used on special days in their homes to stimulate the religious significance of the day.

10. Ask a family to demonstrate around a dinner table a simple example of shared grace and family devotion in which the children participate.

11. Write to several denomination boards and ask for suggestions

(Continued on page 28)

ers include saying he is sorry, and that God ns and forgives us when we do feel sorry. is good to grow up in a family which goes to ch regularly and participates in its activities. hristian family should feel that church attendance s necessary as eating and sleeping. It is better ad your children to worship on Sunday than to e to worship. It is an accepted fact that a child's ous life cannot be developed in a vacuum outside church. Too many children are acquainted with church piecemeal. They go to church school but r to church. They do not see that each is a part ne whole. They seldom see the minister or think im in relation to the church or to themselves. hildren should become aware of what is going n the church by seeing us fulfilling the purposes eaching, learning, giving, and fellowship. A child ls to feel that it is good to sit quietly with his

family in a church service, and that some of it has meaning for him. He can understand that we go to church because we want to think about God. We like to do this with others. Our church is made beautiful to help us worship. He can understand some parts of the service if we take the time to explain to him the Doxology and the singing responses. He can understand that when he is disturbing others, they cannot listen or worship.

If someone were to give you a very large sum of money to be spent for your family in any way you desired, you would think of security and all the many advantages and things you would like them to have. Why not accept another windfall? By taking time to plan and carry out a meaningful devotional life for your family you will be giving them a richer heritage than all the give-aways ever dreamed up by modern advertisers.

BIBLEGRAM

by *Hilda E. Allen*

ess the words defined below and write them over their umbered dashes. Then transfer each letter to the correspond- y numbered square in the pattern. The colored squares eate word endings.

ading from left to right, you will find that the filled ern contains a selected quotation from the Bible.

What lambs, ewes, and rams are	43	15	70	86	67
Foottime meal	10	26	111	24	39
ong walks	96	31	64	88	6
a certain kind of trained pigeon	34	84	61	52	32 17
What the flowers do in the spring	81	117	44	120	87
he whole sum, or amount	51	125	108	41	30
he most good, or most excellent	122	82	54	121	
What Moby Dick is	14	47	75	71	29
Place to go for a sun tan	2	23	49	91	69
usic played on a set of bells	58	107	37	102	97 5
To harken, or give ear	42	1	60	7	127 53
horn used by hunters	89	57	106	76	35
unniness	109	93	22	72	12
Kind of key that opens several ocks that are not alike	124	92	28	55	4 50
he color of Moby Dick	77	115	18	59	48
sifter, as for flour	94	63	90	19	123
What the Wise Men brought to the hrist child	38	105	83	101	21

R Maize, or corn, ground small for food	8	25	45	113	36	79
S Cared very deeply	118	11	126	95	74	
T Place where milk is kept and made into butter or cream	112	78	98	56	46	
U Prepared for what might happen	73	62	100	13	103	
V Man's singing voice	68	66	27	16	85	
W Good picnic dish made of potatoes, eggs, onions, mayonnaise, etc	80	110	3	116	128	
X Weeping willows, elms, maples, and others	40	104	9	20	99	
Y A robin's house	119	65	114	33		

(Solution on page 30)

	1			2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9
	10	11	12	13		14	15	16		17	18	19
20	21		22	23		24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	31	32		33	34	35		36	37	38	39	40
	41	42	43	44		45	46		47	48	49	50
51		52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60		61
62		63		64	65	66	67		68	69	70	
71	72	73	74		75	76	77	78	79	80		81
82	83	84	85	86		87	88		89	90	91	92
93	94	95		96	97		98	99		100	101	
102	103		104	105	106	107	108		109	110	111	112
		113		114	115	116	117	118		119	120	121
122	123		124	125	126	127	128					

Vital worship



Church school once a week does not provide enough religious training for our children. To fulfill their spiritual needs we must have regular periods of worship in the home.

I SUPPOSE we could have family worship in our home, but it just doesn't seem necessary. It doesn't meet a need." This was a comment which came from the father of a Christian home. He was not discouraging the practice of personal worship by the individuals of the family. In fact, he strongly advocated that. He was, however, rejecting family worship because he did not see how group participation in worship had any advantages. It did not seem vital. He was using the yardstick by which we measure many of our choices. "Is this something I need to have? Is it important enough to have a place made for it in our family living?"

The advertising mediums parade before us daily the material things which "everyone should have." Christian parents, though, are sensing deeper needs. To have the abundant life we are finding that we need to explore the intangible areas of the spiritual. With penetrating insight many parents are seeing that the most basic of all man's needs is to know his Creator and to have fellowship with him. How does one approach God and how do parents lead their children into this fellowship so essential to their well-being?

Perhaps it is because we have experienced family worship which was not vital and sincere that we have counted it of little worth. We have not paused to



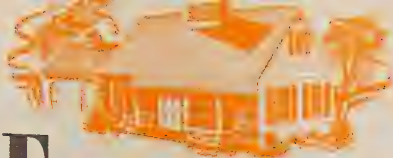
—photo by er

Children like to hear Bible stories in language they understand. The Revised Standard Version meets their needs.

analyze why God has not been real in the experience. We regard it as a pious practice rather than as an opportunity for fellowship with him. Certainly, much more thought should be given to family worship in which we can grow with our children in experiencing together the presence of God in everyday living.

As in all other areas of religious experience, communion with him must in part come from an awareness of our need. "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart, I will be found by you." Vital worship experiences come when

e HOME



earnestly seek them. Thoughtful parents are well aware that it is through their leadership, to a large degree, that their children are led into the presence of God. Many mothers and fathers feel that what is needed is not more materials and tools, but a better understanding of what communion with God is. It is the purpose behind the worship experiences which gives them meaning.

The word "worship" means to revere God. He is present in all of life, and we see him at work on every hand. If we wish to understand him better, we need to be alone to commune with him. We need to read his word to grow in a knowledge of his son. Each member of the family can do this individually, and he will increase in Christian stature as he does so. As we seek together, we gain the added stimulus of family love and concern; and it is this seeking of God in fellowship which brings unexpected returns.

Someone must show the little ones how to open the way to God. Family worship is one of our richest opportunities as parents to lead our children into his presence. We want to make it sincere and vital, not only as it is will it be a motivating force for spiritual growth.

Such was the concern of a group of young mothers who some months ago began meeting in our church. One mother suggested: "Let's form a study group of mothers who are seeking better ways of Christian growth. Let's study. Let's discuss. Let's experiment with our findings in our homes." It was soon the delight of the group to find that as they exchanged thoughts and studied together, they were aware of a fellowship experience in Christian growth which gave to them added encouragement and inspiration.

Then the fathers became interested. Several of them came to the pastor requesting that a Bible seminar be formed which would meet twice a month. As one father put it: "I cannot interpret the Bible so my children so well as I would like. I am willing to set this time aside because it is important to our family." As the experiment has developed, rich experiences in fellowship and study are helping to make Christian family living a great adventure with God.

These young couples became awakened to the need for vital worship experiences. Realizing that they would need to lead the way, they began to analyze carefully their own experience of God and their knowledge of him. Everyone found some unworthy and immature concepts which needed rethinking. This pointed up the need for more fellowship with God

through prayer, study, and meditation; also, for a more adequate understanding of Christ as the unique revelation of the true nature of God.

Having evaluated their own spiritual growth, they next began to give attention to the children who were to join in the quest. They discovered that children had somewhat special spiritual needs. No intelligent mother would think of giving a tiny child a rare steak, and yet many of them had been forcing adult religious concepts on their children. Little wonder they had shown some signs of spiritual indigestion. One mother who was greatly concerned that her child know as much of God at six years as she knew at twenty-six said: "I told my son what a great power God is: that he is in all that happens; that he knows everything; but it didn't seem to impress him. He just said: 'Huh, I don't believe that.'"

She was expecting that little mind to understand concepts beyond its range of comprehension. She fed him rare steak, and he not only couldn't digest it; he refused to swallow it.

If our goal is to help our children know God, we will need to keep in mind one important fact. Spiritual growth takes place as we mature in mind and heart and soul. A child's first knowledge of God is based on attitudes and emotions which his parents reveal to him. The child sees God first through Mother and Dad; they are the first to reveal God's love, authority, and forgiveness.

When he becomes four or five years old, he will begin to learn of Jesus, God's revelation of himself.

By

FRANCIS and

MARGARET TRIMMER

"He who has seen me has seen the Father." How much better it is for parents to share with their children a knowledge of and a love for Christ, encouraging them to look upon God as being like Christ, rather than to have the youngsters think of God as a "policeman" who watches every move they make, or as a "super Santa Claus" who may be urged to gratify every whim. From the life and teachings of Jesus we learn what God is like. We see God as the Father of all, who loves us, and longs for us to grow as he has planned that we should. When we make mistakes, if we are truly sorry, he will forgive us and grant us the chance to try again. With his help we can meet the hard things that may come to us.

(Continued on page 30)

● Getting Started in Family Worship

(Continued from page 3)

Worship may begin with father or mother talking over a perplexing problem with a teen-age son or daughter and praying about it together. An inspiring poem, a Bible verse, or a stanza of a beloved hymn may be each member's waking thought. When agreed upon in advance, unity and fellowship are established through the use of the same devotional material.

After children have grown and the family is scattered, parents may feel a deep sense of separation and loss. They may have a need for something that will create togetherness and unity and provide resources for Christian living in the mature years. Perhaps they are just now beginning to think of having family worship. One couple began by reading a worth-while book together and talking about the characters and action of the story. Out of the moments of fellowship and companionship grew a time of quiet and prayer. Another couple asked their pastor for suggestions for beginning family worship. For another couple family worship began in recalling some of the beloved old hymns and the finest memories of the years. Perhaps grace at the table is the beginning of the family altar for some older couples.

On the first Christmas that the children were gone, a mother placed on the Christmas table a candle for each member of the family. With a simple ceremony the candles were lighted, and in the soft glow of the candlelight it was natural for her and her husband to talk about the children and to pray for them. Some older people have set a definite time when absent members engage in private devotions at a corresponding time.

A Chinese proverb says, "The journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step." Regular family worship must have a beginning. It may grow out of spontaneous experiences which are lifted to moments of worship, or it may be more formal and carefully planned. The beginning may be simple and unsure, but with a deep sense of consecration and dependence upon God, worship may become a vital, meaningful part of every family's experiences.

● Gabriel and Young Mr. Pottleby

(Continued from page 6)

looked around. The street was deserted, as Gabriel had promised. It was great to be alive.

"Holy smoke," he shouted, looking at his watch, "Jeanne probably has lunch on the table now." But young Mr.

Pottleby didn't dash off then and there. No sir! "Gabe," he said, extending his hand, "I sure am grateful for everything you have done for me."

"Think nothing of it, old chap," Gabriel said, heartily. Then he added quietly, "I'll be looking for you in about fifty years, Pottleby. By then I think you will be qualified to pass through the Pearly Gates."

● So Your Son or Daughter Wants to Be a Missionary

(Continued from page 11)

will send you samples of her young students' best writing. Beneath the strange signs you will read her translation "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet." At those times you will know what I mean when I say, "They—and you—stand on the threshold of a beginning."

Parents, never shortchange yourselves or your children by looking upon their missionary appointment as an exile. Instead, lift that appointment high and see it for what it is: their opportunity—and yours—to prove the truth of Jesus' words: *I came that they might have life and have it abundantly.*

● Study Guide

(Continued from page 24)

materials helpful to parents in guiding their children's devotions. These suggestions may be included on a bibliography which is mimeographed and distributed at the meeting. Be sure the prices of the books and the addresses of the publishers are included.

Suggested Materials and Books

Three to Five Years

My Prayer Book. Margaret Clemens. Rand McNally. 60¢. A first prayer book to help the child feel God's closeness in his daily life. *God Gave Me Eyes.* Samuel Gabriel & Co., \$1.25. A picture book with the beginnings of praise to God for everyday things we see. *Tell Me About God.* Mary Alice Jones. Rand McNally. \$2.00.

Six to Nine Years

Children's Prayers for Every Day. Jessie Eleanor Moore. Abingdon Cokesbury Pres. \$1.00. Prayers for individual and family use. *Thoughts of God for Boys and Girls.* Harper & Brothers. \$2.00. Stories, scripture, prayers, songs, and pictures usable year after year. *As the Day Begins.* Elizabeth E. McShields. John Knox Press. Devotional thoughts, prayers, poems, and scripture for every day in the year.

For the Family

Let Us Give Thanks. A file of family prayers and graces. Pilgrim Press. 50¢ a pack. *Prayer Time.* Compiled by Edw. D. Staples. The Upper Room 1 Grand Ave., Nashville, Tennessee. Very good daily devotions for families with small children.

The Family Worship Together. Mazelle Thomas. The Pilgrim Press. 50¢. Rich suggestions how to worship with small children.

We worship. Janet Craw. Pilgrim Press. 50¢. Examples of resources for family devotions.

The Family Celebrates Christmas. Dorothy Carl. The Pilgrim Press. 50¢. Very good helps for planning a Christmas worship service.

Our Little Child Faces Life. Mary C. Odell. Abingdon Cokesbury Press. 60¢. Ways in which family helped their child to know God.

Our Family Grows Toward Christ. Mary C. Odell. Abingdon Cokesbury Press. 60¢. Actual experiences of fellowship, worship, and facing problems together.

● What Should I Take To a Hospital Patient?

(Continued from page 15)

you see on the counter. Take a little time to look around to see what to have to offer. Many stores have various items attractively packaged in unusual ways or in sets that will appeal to the patient.

This suggestion applies to gifts for women as well. Women's cosmetic counters offer a wide variety of hair powder, soap, cologne sticks (preferable to bottles which spill easily), hair lotion, manicure sets, and similar items. Even in a hospital small sewing kits are handy. Bed jackets are welcomed by most patients whether they wear hospital gowns or their own clothing. In some hospitals gowns or pajamas are used. If you buy one of these, be sure you know the correct size.

These are only a few ideas. You think of many others if you put your imagination to work.

Wrap your gift as attractively as possible. Perhaps you would like to wrap several smaller gifts separately and then all together in a larger package. The patient would have fun opening such a gift. Or mark each one to be opened on a certain date, if the person is to be in the hospital for a long time. Many visitors do not give a gift until they are about to leave. The visit is thus prolonged after their departure, and the patient is free to be with them while they are with him. The next time you go to see a friend in the hospital.



Family Counselor

CAN'T get my younger son, aged four, to stay in Sunday school by himself. He was all right with me in the room with him until this past summer when we missed three Sundays in a row because of trips. Now he wants me to sit right beside him, and isn't content with my being in the room. I feel this is carrying bashfulness too far and refuse to do it. So he winds up staying with me instead of sitting with the boys and girls and singing and praying.

He had been staying by himself for a few months when one Sunday all of a sudden he wanted me to stay. A lot of fuss had just been made over his curly hair of which he seems conscious. I've also been wanting to change to a Sunday school closer to our home but I feel he'd be very uncomfortable in a strange place. Thank you very much for any suggestions.

LET ME suggest that first of all you make certain that your son knows and likes the kindergarten teacher. This may mean that she should visit in your home where she will have an opportunity to get better acquainted with him and he with her. She can show an interest in his picture books and blocks and tell him about the good time they are having at the kindergarten on Sunday. When you go on Sunday, he finds someone he knows, therefore. The teacher is ready to greet him with a special smile and to guide him into some of the activities of the group. You will guard against asking him if he wants you to stay; simply tell him that you are going into another room for a while but that you will be back soon. If the teacher has enlisted his interest in some of the activities, he is not likely to object to your going. If he does, you may need to stay in the room for a Sunday or two, but soon he should be willing to stay by himself.

Three other suggestions are in order. First: the teachers should be told that he is quite conscious of his curly hair and that probably no reference should be made to it. Second: you refer to these four-year-olds singing and praying. These activities are all right, of course, but if that is all they do, you may need to look carefully into the kindergarten program to make certain proper procedures and curriculum materials are being used. Ask for a copy of *Child Guidance* and note the suggestions there for the kindergarten period on Sunday morning. Third: it

may be that there are too many children in cramped quarters, and that your son feels a bit confused and bewildered by all the children present. If this should be true, perhaps the church needs to provide more space and helpers so that the children will receive the individual attention they need.

If you want to go to a Sunday school nearer home, get acquainted with the kindergarten teacher there and follow much the same procedure as above. In addition, you may want to meet the teacher in the kindergarten room some period during the week, when other children are not present, so your son can get acquainted with the room and the play materials that are there. It should not be long until he adjusts happily to the new situation.

Donald M. Maynard

WILBUR



"Any luck, mister?"

● The Smallest Pumpkin

(Continued from page 18)

Old Tom started on. But a wheel stuck.

Old Tom tugged, and with a bump the load of pumpkins went uphill—all but one.

It went downhill, with a bounce, and rolled over and over till it stopped by the side of the road.

The dry leaves rustled in the stillness on the hill as Jim raked them into neat piles. Beyond the rose bushes, in Miss Lane's tiny garden, the fat orange pumpkin sat waiting for Jim. From the field beyond, one lone cow mooed softly.

As Jim walked to the porch for a basket, there was a low rumble. Jim stopped to listen. The steady whirring was coming closer. The booming grew louder. There was a screech from the hill.

Jim ran around to the road as the shots pounded.

Bang! Bang! Bang!
There was a baffled roar. Then Jim laughed.

"Guess I should have known," he said to himself.

Miss Lane called, "Jim! What's happened? What is it?"

"Just a truck. It back-fired. See, there it goes."

"There's plenty wrong with that motor," he added, and they watched the heavy truck grind noisily up and over the hill.

"What a racket!" said Miss Lane. "Enough to scare a body out of its wits. I'm glad it's gone. I hope—"

But Miss Lane stopped, and listened. "Jim, what's that?"

Jim listened to the low thumps. He listened and then he ran as they heard yells above the trampling sounds.

"That's Mr. Frye," he called back. "Oh, look! His cow!"

Mr. Frye, Miss Lane, Jim, and the cow all met where the leaves lay scattered from their piles in the back yard.

Mr. Frye spoke first.

"I'm sorry about this, Miss Lane," he said. "I don't know why she's so jumpy. I guess she was scared silly. She's all right now. I hope she didn't do any damage. You let me know if she did, and I'll fix it up for you."

After Mr. Frye led his cow quietly back across the little garden, Miss Lane and Jim looked at each other.

"Jim," said Miss Lane, "Do you think—?"

She didn't finish, but Jim understood. He hated to look, but he did.

It was there, still waiting—but it was smashed.

"Oh, Jim, I'm so sorry," said Miss Lane, and he knew she was.

Jim tried to smile.

"It's all right," he said. "You couldn't help it. I'll go rake the leaves."

After the yard was cleaned up, they had milk and cookies together. It was late afternoon when Jim started home.

Scuffing through the leaves along the road, Jim tried not to think of the jack-o'-lantern he wouldn't have now.

"Farmer Brown would have given me one," he thought, as he kicked the leaves.

Then he saw it.

Jim stopped. He looked around. Nobody was on the road. No house was near. Whose could it be? Would it be all right to take it? There wasn't anyone to ask.

Jim sat down beside the pumpkin. It was a small pumpkin. It would make a fine jack-o'-lantern.

The sun was getting lower when Jim stood up, holding the small lost pumpkin.

"I wonder," he thought. He turned the pumpkin around in his hands. "It could be."

Then Jim ran.

"Have you seen Farmer Brown go by?" he called, when he reached the little house where he and his mother lived alone.

"No," said his mother. "Why?"

Jim explained.

"I'll watch for him," he said.

It was getting dark when Jim heard wheels and slow clop-clops.

"Farmer Brown!" he called. "Is this yours?"

Farmer Brown looked at the pumpkin. He listened to Jim. Then he laughed.

"Ho, ho," said Farmer Brown. "So that's why the small one didn't get to town."

"Jim," he said, "I think that pumpkin didn't want to be a pie. I think it wanted to be a jack-o'-lantern. I don't know a boy who could make a better one than you. It's yours, Jim. Good luck to you."

"Oh, thank you," said Jim. "I'll do my best."

Jim ran home with the smallest pumpkin.

● Vital Worship in the Home

(Continued from page 27)

As the child grows into adolescence, he comes to understand that God has given to his children the privilege of helping him in the creation of a better world. He believes in us when others do not, and he counts on us to help establish his way of love and peace to the ends of the earth.

It is written of Jesus that he "increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man." All the potential of his greatness was present as a tiny babe in Bethlehem, but he grew into the full revelation of God.

Once we understand the needs of the parent and child and their tremendous possibilities for growth, our goal in worship becomes focused and vital. We will then need to get together the tools and equipment for our venture. The Bible, of course, is basic. The New Revised Edition for Children makes reading the Bible a thrilling experience. There are excellent devotional

booklets available for family worship. Some families compile their own collection of "thoughts of God"—poes, pictures, stories, prayers, and clipping from periodicals pertaining to God. A dictionary of the Bible and a concordance will prove helpful. The church school materials contain helpful worship suggestions. Many families are being completely transformed by the materials they are finding in *Hearthstone* magazine. Several young couples in a church never miss an opportunity to b their testimony as to its value in th homes.

With these as our aids we will th need to develop ways of express family worship. We would like to m tion four types. Every Christian ho can begin with *grace at meals*. This a time to express gratitude for all th God has given us. We will need guard against this developing a "san ness" that soon destroys its meaning. I know an eleven-year-old boy who s recently, "Dad, I have got to think a new blessing." Apparently, he re ized that worship which becomes ster typed soon becomes lifeless.

Every Christian home can create periences of *worship in the fam circle*. Many families have set aside few moments for worship in the morn and would no more think of starting day without his word hidden in th hearts then they would think of sta ing the day without breakfast. Th may have had to make many beginni before they realized how rewarding t experience can be, but now that th have become accustomed to it, th would not be without it. Most famili include prayer and meditation in th worship service; of course, nothing c take the place of God's word. Pray written by various members of the fa ily for special occasions such as Than giving and birthdays bring happy Ch istian growth. Participation by every is important. Then there are the w ship experiences, less formal, around

(Continued on next page)

BIBLEGRAM SOLUTION

(Biblegram on page 25)

"I bless the LORD who gives me co self; in the night also my heart instr me. I keep the LORD always before m because he is at my right hand, I sh not be moved." (Psalm 16:7-8)

The Words

A Sheep	I Beach	R Homi
B Lunch	J Chimes	S Loved
C Hikes	K Listen	T Dairy
D Homing	L Bugle	U Ready
E Bloom	M Humor	V Tenor
F Total	N Master	W Salad
G Best	O White	X Trees
H Whale	P Sieve	Y Nest
	Q Gifts	

BOOKS

for the Hearthside

For Children

Young children will enjoy **The Ten Who Listened**, by Nura Harper and Brothers, 32 pages, 50¢. The story tells about a family of strong-minded individuals who did not own a kitten, but they knew they would some day. Each person decided upon a name for the cat which the family would have. A wise old mother cat had told her son that if anyone really wanted a cat, he would have a cat waiting. How the cat listens, and when he finally hears his name, how the whole family is united and happy once again is a merry story.

The Book for the Year, by Elizabeth Peters (Harper and Brothers, 52 pages, \$2.50), represents each month of the year and describes its part and place in nature's progress. There is a scratchboard drawing by Ilonka Karasz for each month. Those who love country life and those for whom the recurrent wonder of the turn of the year is an important event, will enjoy the message of this book.

Two Little Golden Books which young children will enjoy are **Marvelous Merry-Go-Round**, by Jane Werner, and **Santa's Toy Shop**, by Walt Disney. **The Marvelous Merry-Go-Round** is about a little boy who loved to ride on a merry-go-round. He said he would one day have one on

which there were live animals. When he grew up, he had such a merry-go-round, but people were afraid to ride it. Then he painted the animals so that they looked wooden, but all the children knew that the animals were really alive. **Santa's Toy Shop** tells of the busy times Santa has before Christmas, and Santa never has time to play with the toys. One Christmas Eve as he delivers presents, he finds at the last house a lunch with a note "For Dear Santa Claus." Then Santa sits down to play with the toys. This is his best Christmas. Children will enjoy this fantasy. Each of these books is unpagged and priced at 25 cents.

For Young People

The problem of wisely acquainting growing boys and girls with the facts of sex is always with us. Another aid to parents in meeting that issue is to be found in a new book, **Into the World**, by Victoria Emerson and James J. Thompson (published by the Woman's Press, New York, 128 pages, \$2.00, illustrated). Directed for young people entering puberty, this unique book gives a natural and uncomplicated account of conception and birth through the medium of family experiences on a farm. What is more natural than to present the facts of life through a story about normal fam-

ilies in a normal setting? The book was written by parents in consultation with other parents, educators, psychologists, ministers, physicians, and representatives of parent-teacher and other community groups. The fiction form in which the story is told will make it more appealing than a strictly factual approach.

The Adventure of Finding God, by Virginia Church (Abingdon Press, Nashville, 160 pages, \$1.50) carries the explanatory note "wise and friendly letters to youth." The author, for many years a loved and trusted confidant of high school and college young people, lifts out of her correspondence with them the questions they ask about religion and life and answers them out of her abundant experience and faith. This little book is valuable for parents, teachers, and ministers, as well as for the young people.

● Vital Worship in the Home

(Continued from page 30)

fireplace or in the great out-of-doors. Some of the most vivid worship moments our family has ever had were around an open fire along the lakeshore or in the mountains.

Every Christian home will find its family worship becoming more vital as each individual member strengthens his own *personal relationship with God*. A busy mother will find that she will do well, even in the midst of an overly crowded schedule, to set aside a few moments in the day for meditation. If she reserves time for her own spiritual nourishment, she will be more likely to have thoughts of God to share with her children. I know of one mother who tries to keep food for spiritual nurture on hand just as conscientiously as she stacks her pantry shelves. A child who comes into a room and finds his father in prayer is made keenly aware that there is a God—a powerful Presence—on whom his dad depends.

We have said earlier that we grow better spiritually in a family group with each helping the other, learning as we observe Christian growth taking place in each other. So we learn as we worship with other families *in the house of God*. The family that attends church faithfully, worshipping together as a family, and working together at the tasks which God has entrusted to them, will begin to discover their worship experience reaching out beyond the family circle. Vital worship experiences will no longer need to be sought but will be joyfully anticipated with each new day.



Over the Back Fence



● And Now There Are Five Million

Dr. Karl Menninger, noted psychiatrist, not long ago said that the five million alcoholics in the United States constitute the nation's single largest mental health problem.

"Nothing looms so large on the horizon," he said. "Every day we see horrifying examples of men and women who drink up every penny they own and make serious critical errors in judgment that affect you and me. It is a problem which is taking a tremendous mental, social, and physical toll."

He asserted that psychiatry can help some alcoholics and praised the work of Alcoholics Anonymous, but affirmed that not all who need help will be reached by these agencies.

Hearthstone recalls that a few years ago the figure given for the number of alcoholics was three and a half million. In other words alcohol is making victims faster than they are being redeemed.

A spokesman for Alcoholics Anonymous, Mrs. Marty Mann, stated that misinformation and lack of information about the nature of alcoholism has been the alcoholic's biggest problem. She said that the majority of people think of it as either a sin or a crime, and one of AA's major jobs is to teach the facts about it.

It is just at this point that *Hearthstone* has a few questions.

Is it not just possible that alcoholism is a sin or a crime? Grant for the moment that it is also a disease, as many contend. Is it not also possible that any disease which is contracted under circumstances similar to those by which alcoholism is contracted should be looked upon as a sin?

Take, for example, such a disease as smallpox, now almost eliminated from our country. If, knowing

the cause of it, how it is contracted, how it can be prevented, a person would deliberately expose himself to it, refuse to be immunized against it, continue to expose himself to it, would he not in reality be committing a sin? Also, if he further exposes others as a result of his own deliberate courting of the disease, is he not also essentially guilty of crime?

If alcoholism is a disease, it is the easiest disease in the whole category of illness to avoid, if not to cure. No person ever contracted the disease of alcoholism who never took a drink of alcohol. Every person who drinks, even occasionally, lays himself open to the possibility of contracting our nation's most serious health and mental health problem, alcoholism.

● Another Side to the Picture

So many of our newspaper headlines play up the juvenile delinquency of our time. There is no denying the seriousness of the situation or the widespread fact of it; but there is another side to the picture.

One aspect of that other side appeared a few months ago in a news story about some Dearborn, Michigan, high school students. Some 200 of them were attending, each Wednesday before class time, an early morning religious service of worship.

Sponsored by the Hi-Y Clubs of the school and counseled by the youth program director of the YMCA, the meetings are planned and conducted entirely by the young people themselves.

Hearthstone believes that this side of the picture more truly represents the youth of our day than does the delinquency side. Though it does not get the publicity in our sensation-seeking newspapers that "youth on the loose" receives, it is another link in the chain of evidence that "good news isn't news" in the news game.

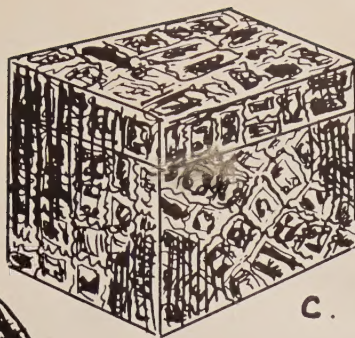


A.



B.

Nena Palmer



C.

by

Nena Palmer

IT'S DONE

You can make all sorts of things from used postage stamps—soaking them off letters or using some of the duplicates from your collection.

Fig. A shows a glass dish which makes a wonderful gift for your mother or aunt for serving nuts or candies. Use any plain, inexpensive clear glass dish and paste the stamps all over the back (or outside) of it, using a clear mucilage, and being careful that the entire surface of the stamp is covered. Arrange the different shapes and colors so that they are attractive—you might use a series of stamps showing historic scenes, or parks—and keep pasting them on until the entire glass is covered, even though some of the stamps are overlapping.

When the stamps are thoroughly dry, you can paint the outside with two coats of clear shellac or varnish, to make it waterproof.

Fig. B is a clever paperweight idea, using a small plain glass custard cup. In this case paste the stamps on in the same way, but on the inside of the cup. When they are dry, give the back of the stamps one coat of shellac. Then mix a small amount of plaster of Paris (according to the directions on the box) or patching plaster, if you have some handy, and slowly and neatly fill the cup.

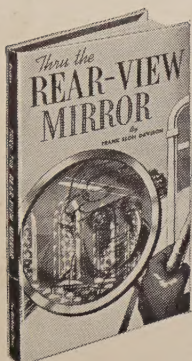
Let this dry thoroughly. Then glue a piece of felt over the bottom, which can also be cut from a worn-out hat. This makes a very inexpensive gift, yet anyone receiving it will be far more pleased than they would with something you have bought.

Fig. C is a wooden box. You can use a small file box, or a wooden cigar box, or any other type you happen to have around. Be sure to sand off any paint or varnish, down to the wood, and scrape or soak off any papers. Then arrange your stamps in an interesting patch-work manner, and paste them down solidly all over the box. When they are dry, give the box two coats of clear shellac or varnish. A box is always useful, for holding recipes, or clippings, or a thousand other things—even your duplicate stamps!

With Christmas not so very far around the corner, it isn't too soon to be thinking of useful and attractive gifts!

WITH

STAMPS

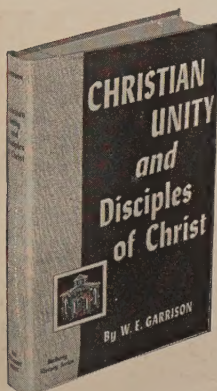


Thru the Rear-View Mirror

By Frank Elon Davison. Dr. Davison takes his readers backward in time to share many of the amusing, serious, tender and important events of his life. \$2.00

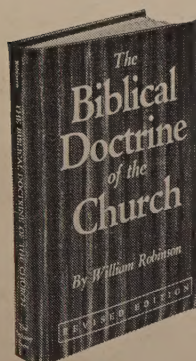
India Today!

By Jack Finegan. This new republic in an ancient land is as strategic in Asia as Asia is in the world. A book for everyone interested in world affairs. Fifty photos! \$4.25



Christian Unity and Disciples of Christ

By W. E. Garrison. An intelligent and acutely perceptive survey of Christian unity. Contains the most pertinent facts on ecumenicity. \$3.00



God's Wonder World

By Bernice Bryant. A popular and delightfully different type of devotional reading for boys and girls six to ten years old. Written in story form. \$1.75

The Biblical Doctrine of the Church

By William Robinson. This revised edition is worthy of careful consideration by all Protestants. Here is a clear concept of what the church should be. \$3.00

The Price and the Prize

By Culbert C. Rutenber. The meaning of our Christian faith—explained for youth and laymen! Help for every growing Christian, and a guidance for youth. \$1.00

In Pastures Green

By F. W. Boreham. A ramble through the Twenty-third Psalm. Essays to provide comfort and pour grace into the hearts of readers. A perfect gift. 75 cents.

Guiding Youth in Christian Growth

By Oliver DeWolf Cummings. Teaching plans for all who carry the responsibility for youth leadership—pastors or laymen. \$2.50

Ye Are My Witness

By Earle V. Pierce. A practical, readable explanation of the Book of Acts. Shows clearly the reality of the Church as the earthly body of Christ. \$3.00

Mission to City Multitudes

By Lincoln B. Wadsworth. Real-life stories of big city loneliness and how it has been relieved. Stories of the pressure of multitudes on the individual. 75 cents.

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